

URGE FARMERS
TO RAISE MORE

Committees Appointed By The
Agricultural Council of Safe-
ty to Co-Operate With People
in Raising Big Crops.

The County Agricultural Council of Safety met in the Court House here Wednesday, and mapped out a plan of activities for the spring campaign. A number of committees were appointed, and a number of enthusiastic short talks were made along the lines suggested by the State Council looking to the increase of this year's farm and garden products, conservation of food, etc.

Dr. Peirce, the President of the County Council, presided. Owing to weather conditions the attendance was not large, but those in attendance expressed enthusiastic willingness to do what they could to further promote the commendable objects and work of the Council, which is to conserve and increase the food supply of the county. This great work will be won, but bread as well as bullets is an absolute essential and while both bread and bullets are necessary, bullets without bread and meat behind them are useless.

In the hope and belief that much may be accomplished by concert of action and organization, the following committees were appointed:

Food Production—Rev. J. E. Wolfe, chairman; W. Archie Thompson, L. A. Tynes, Jos. S. Gillespie.

Economy in the Home—Mrs. S. C. Graham, chairman; Mrs. J. S. Dudley, Graham; Mrs. Sol. Beach, Pocahontas; Mrs. J. B. Crabtree, Richlands.

Farm Labor—H. A. Tynes, chairman; L. P. Brittain, Henry Preston.

Publicity—J. A. Leslie, W. G. O'Brien.

Educational Committee—Prof. A. S. Greever, Rev. Mr. Wolfe, R. R. Wall.

These several committees are urged to hold meetings at once and plan their campaigns. Systematic work and much of it is imperatively demanded at once.

The Council adopted the following suggestions and recommendations:

Be it recommended by the County Agricultural Council of Safety,

1st, That every citizen of the county look first to the safety of himself and those dependent upon him, by planting enough garden to furnish the greater part of his food supply for the coming year. We do not think it wise that he undertake this in the haphazard and hither-and-thither manner in which it was done last year, but advise that he plant those sure crops with which he is familiar and which he can certainly use for his own food, not experimenting with vegetables he knows nothing of, or raising great quantities of perishable food, which will largely go to waste.

We recommended that potatoes, beans, sweet corn, peas, and the root crops cannot be too eagerly grown, and an oversupply can readily be saved.

2nd, It would seem to be a self-evident proposition that Tazewell county should at least raise enough grain to feed its people, to guarantee their safety from the want of bread.

We would, therefore, advise the early preparation for the largest corn and oat crops that we have ever raised, and later for an increased crop of the fall grain, buckwheat. Make every acre that can be cultivated do its full share.

3rd, It is only necessary to mention the production of an increased meat supply, cattle, hogs, sheep, poultry. Cattle raising is our business and we feel that every farmer will do his best this year to not only make his land do its full duty in supporting an increased number of cattle and sheep but by extra care make them weigh more and decrease the losses from death and disease. We feel that our country has not been doing its best in the production of hogs and poultry and advise that attention be given to both these subjects.

4th, Our fruit crop should be given close attention. Trees should be cultivated, pruned and sprayed.

5th, The question of labor should be taken up by our land owners and made a careful subject of study. How to keep the laborer on the farm should be the first question for each farmer. We suggest that this question be taken up at a mass-meeting and discussed thoroughly, for some means must be provided to make farm labor satisfied or we will soon be unable to get labor, even of the poorest kind. The Council is inclined to believe that a system of renting may do much to relieve the situation. Give the laborer a chance to do something for himself. We believe much land can be found that can be rented to the advantage of both owner and tenant. It should become a patriotic duty to rent even some of the best land that our supply of grain may be increased.

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SECRETARY BAKER SILENCES CRITICS IN REVEALING PREPAREDNESS
OF UNITED STATES FOR EUROPEAN CONFLICT—500,000 AMERICAN
SOLDIERS NOW IN FRANCE AND MILLION MORE READY TO GO OVER

Washington, Jan. 28.—America will have an army of half a million men in France early this year, with ammunition more trained and equipped ready to follow as quickly as ships can be provided to carry them and the outlook for this is not unpromising.

Secretary Baker gave this information to the Nation and to the world in a statement before the Senate Military committee, baring much that until now has been carefully guarded with the army's military secrets, in answering charges that the government has broken down preparing for war.

Extemporaneous Speech.

From early morning until late afternoon the secretary addressed the committee. A crowd, including many members of both Houses of Congress, gathered in a big hearing room of the Senate office building. He spoke extemporaneously, beginning with details of the mammoth task of building an army of a million and a half and answering complaints of inefficiency, as were cited by Senator Chamberlain in his recent speech, and declaring that such instances were isolated and not general. Some questions were asked, and Mr. Baker from time to time, had assistants go to the telephone for reports on specific conditions. Then toward the close of the day the secretary delivered a dramatic general statement of the American war plan, telling of the coming of the allied missions, of the day and night conferences with men from the scene of battle in which the plans now being executed were adopted, and of success beyond the most sanguine expectations in building the army and its industrial support at home, trans-

porting men across the ocean, constructing railroads in France and preparing to strike the enemy with every resource at the country's command.

Profound Impression.

When Mr. Baker closed, it was apparent no had created a profound impression. Chairman Chamberlain said so before he left the stand. There was no attempt at cross-examination. The chairman proposed that the secretary be given a rest and it virtually was agreed to recall him for further examination later after the committee has completed its hearing of officers of the medical corps, aviation section and other branches of the service.

While many things disclosed impressed the committee, it was frankly amazed when told that men of the 32 national guard and national army divisional camps are ready to go today at need. When members wanted to know why such things had not been given publicly before, Mr. Baker spoke of the reluctance of military men to reveal their war plans and quoted German remarks about America's edification of her preparations.

Emphasizing that he was of there to defend himself or anybody else, the secretary urged the committee again and again to lay bare any short comings or failure of the department that it might be corrected. Frequently he paused to seek stronger language to describe the devotion of his associates in the department, military and civilian.

"For one reason or another," he said, "the impression has gone out into the country, to some extent at least, that the war department has fallen down."

"It would be a tragical thing if this tremendous effort, this wholly unprecedented sacrifice made by men,

in fact to turn out to deserve the comment that it had fallen down."

"Never in the history of time, he declared, had an army of its size been raised, equipped, trained and prepared for battle as had that of the United States."

Mr. Baker took personal responsibility for getting men under training before their equipment was ready to the last shoe button. Such officers as Major General Leonard Wood, he said, had urged this policy. He described conferences that evaluated the ordnance program and its fulfillment, submitting documents to prove that France and Great Britain were supplying artillery and machine guns for the first forces at their own request in order that ships might be used for other purposes.

In all that was done prior to the departure of the first troops, General Pershing shared in the deliberations and approved the decisions reached. Mr. Baker said, and now surrounded with a staff of trained regular officers who could well be spared from the great task at home, Pershing is in France as the "eyes of the army."

Every step taken since has been founded on his long daily cable reports of what is going on at the fighting fronts.

Tables were cited to show that overcrowding in the camps and cantonments had not been general and that the sickness had come mostly in the camps where medical opinion had agreed it was least to be expected. The history of the development, and building of the cantonments was given in detail to show that every precaution possible had been taken.

Analyzing the effects of the ordnance bureau, the secretary said that General Crozier had urged for years a greater artillery preparation; that he at least, had realized the time gun making required. But even France, herself, "with the enemy at her throat," he added, had not been able to see what vast gun programs the war would lead to.

During his general statement of

ago and broke his ribs, is getting on fine. He has been discharged from the hospital.

Mrs. A. Campbell is improving nicely. Hope she will soon be out.

Mr. Willie Witt, guard at the convict camp, is confined to his bed with pneumonia.

Mr. and Mrs. John P. Green, of Paint Lick, are visiting relatives and friends at Richlands this week.

Mr. James Jackson and Whitt Wysock were the guests of Mr. J. B. Mutter one day last week.

Mr. Bert Hopkins, bookkeeper for W. A. Scott and Co., of North Tazewell, was the guest of his father and mother, Mr. and Mrs. M. M. Hankins yesterday.

Mr. C. C. Hyatt is raising the smoke stack at the brick yard again, which he expects to ship the government 400,000 brick per month on a contract.

The little son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Johnson on Gray's Branch, had the misfortune to have a horse fall with him Sunday and hurt him very badly, cutting his nose badly.

MRS. ELIZABETH SIMMERMAN.

On January 20, 1918, Mrs. Elizabeth, the beloved wife of Mr. J. H. Simmerman, passed away, after a long and happy life. She was 72 years of age. Her death occurred at her home in Wytheville, after a brief illness. Deceased was born and reared in Tazewell, and was a daughter of the late Col. Henry B. Harman and Mary Fudge Harman, who were prominent people of this community years ago.

She has four sisters and two brothers living in this town, viz: Mrs. M. J. Davidson, Mrs. A. B. White, Mrs. G. W. Doug, Mrs. A. G. Kiser, and brothers, Alexander L. and E. Harman. Two daughters and one son survive, Mrs. Rose Shriner, Mt. Airy, Ind.; Miss Mattie Simmerman, of Wytheville and Dr. Henry Harman Simmerman, of Maryland.

Mrs. Simmerman was an occasional visitor to Tazewell, where she had an enthusiastic welcome, not only from her relatives, but from friends and associates of other days. She was a good woman, a faithful wife and a devoted mother, and her loss is deeply felt and widely mourned.

"We shall stand upon the brink, Some sweet day, by and by."

Some sweet day, by and by.

DR. WALTON GREEVER MANAGER OF LARGE WAR TASK.

A letter from Dr. Walton H. Greever to his brother, E. L. Greever, says: "You will probably be surprised to learn that I am in New York to take up the work of Campaign Manager for the National Lutheran Commission for soldiers and sailors welfare in a national drive for \$750,000.00 for Lutheran war work. Came to New York Saturday in answer to telegrams and will be here most of the time until March 1st."—Knabe building, 437 Fifth Ave., New York City.

Dr. Greever, as hundreds of our readers know, was born and reared in Burke's Garden and his many friends and relatives will be gratified at this mark of recognition of former large services rendered by him to his church and his nation.

NEWS OF RICHLANDS.

Richlands, Jan. 30.—Quite a lot of damage was done by the high waters Sunday and Monday. W. R. Blankenship lost quite a lot of corn. R. W. Shreve at Doran had about 250 stacks of corn. Captain Patterson had to move out of the camps at Richlands on account of the water.

Mr. Albert Brown, son of James Brown, of Middle Creek, has moved to Richlands on his own property, which has been occupied by Richard Davis for the last three years.

Mr. Allen Lee and Pearl Shreve, of Camp Lee, are visiting homefolks at this place this week.

G. W. Rimmer and Robert Bird are moving Peter Lankford's horse off of the right-of-way for the new road off Big Creek.

Mr. C. T. Helton, who fell sometime

Tazewell Rifles to
Be Mustered Into
Service Tomorrow

The Tazewell Rifles, sixty-five in number, the volunteer company, recently organized here, will be mustered into the service of the State tomorrow, (Saturday), at 4 o'clock, by Col. R. F. Taylor, of Roanoke, who has been requested to perform the ceremony by Col. Joe. Lane Stern, State Inspector of Virginia. All members of the company are expected to be present tomorrow afternoon promptly at the designated hour.

The people generally have little idea of what the company here has been doing for the past month in the way of drilling and working, preparing for service "anywhere in Virginia," if needed. As soon as the uniforms arrive, and the weather improves the company will be drilled in the open.

The following amounts have been contributed towards buying uniforms for the Tazewell Rifles:

Town of Tazewell,	\$200.00
Pocahontas Fuel Company, ..	200.00
Jewell Ridge Coal Corp., ..	75.00
Raven Red Ash Coal Co., ..	50.00
Pounding Mill Quarries,	50.00
A. S. and A. J. Higginbotham, ..	25.00
Barns Gillespie,	25.00
J. W. Chapman,	25.00
A. G. Kiser,	25.00
Geo. C. Peery,	25.00
Stras, Harman and Co.,	25.00
Banner Raven Coal Corp., ..	25.00
Judge S. C. Graham,	22.50
R. P. Copenhaver,	10.00
Fred R. Steele,	10.00
John A. O'Keefe,	10.00
J. D. and C. H. Peery, Jr., ..	10.00
Dr. S. Bowen,	5.00
John E. Jackson,	5.00
M. J. Hankins,	5.00
H. S. Bowen,	5.00
	\$832.50

The uniforms, sixty-five in number, were ordered about a month ago, and are expected within a week or ten days, and sufficient funds must be in hand to pay the bill. The Company lacks about \$125.00 of having sufficient money. Contributions should be sent to Mr. T. A. Repass, Jr., who will acknowledge receipt.

Our friend, J. H. Downs, away out in Iowa, who has his share of ups and downs, as any of us, renews his allegiance. Bob Moss, for himself and one of his men, McMeans, Mrs. Annie McCall, Chapman H. Peery, Cedar Bluff; Tom Brown and Gus Payne, here on last Saturday at the big meeting, slipped the editor a couple in passing; C. G. Yost, a son of Rev. Wiley Yost, of North Tazewell, a new addition, and Mrs. Cunningham, of Bluefield; W. F. Billips, Crandon, Va., wherever that is; Bill Boggess, the Richlands merchant and our German-American friend, U. J. Shafer, who lived on Clinch, but is now in West Virginia.

Time and space fails to name all of them. To all of these and all the rest—those who have and those who will—next week—the editor extends cordial greetings.

Before closing the list mention must be made of Lee Holly's addition to the fighting force—one of the best colored men in the State.

WHO LOST AN AUTO CHAIN?

Mrs. Cap Crockett reports the finding of an auto chain in the road near her home. If you lost it, call for it.

the war plan, and how it was developed, Mr. Baker was rarely interrupted.

During the statement to the committee, Mr. Baker said that he thought it was commonly thought throughout the country that our contribution at outset might well be financial and industrial. The industries of this country were largely devoted at that time to the manufacture of war materials for our allies.

"As I suggested this morning when we went into the market, we found it largely occupied, so that our problem was not going to a shoe factory and saying 'make shoes for us,' but it was going to a factory that never made shoes, because all the shoe factories were busy making shoes for people from whom we could not take them, and saying 'learn how to make shoes in order that you may make them for us.'"

"Now, of course, this is not true of shoes, but it is true of machine guns, it is true of other arms, it is true of ammunition, it is true of forging capacity, which was the greatest of the country and all of this we had not merely to not disturb the program of allied manufacture in this country, but we had not to cut off the supplies of raw material to our allies, and we had not to disturb the industry of this country, to such an extent that products upon which they depended for the success of their military operations would be interfered with, both agricultural and commercial and industrial products."

"At the outset the idea was that we would be a financial and industrial assistance to our allies during the year 1918, and I think I probably can read from the Metropolitan Magazine for August, a suggestion which will show that the current expectation of the country was. The editor of the Metropolitan Magazine was protesting against what he believed to be the intention of the government at that time."

Here is quoted the article from the

Metropolitan, of which Colonel Roosevelt is a contributing editor, in which the hope was expressed that the United States would strain every effort to get from 50,000 to 100,000 men in France during the year 1917.

"That is, the year 1917, said Secretary Baker. 'I tell no secret, but it is perfectly well known to everybody in this group that we have far exceeded what in August, 1917, was regarded as a program so ideal that the editor of this magazine refers to it as a thing which we ought to have strained every nerve in a vain but hopeless effort to accomplish.'"

"Now, instead of having 50,000 or 100,000 men in France in 1917, we have many more than that in France and instead of having half a million men whom we could ship to France if we could find any way to do it in 1918 we will have more than one-half million men in France early in 1918, and we have available, if the transportation facilities are available to us, one and one-half million who in 1918 can be shipped to France."

"Why," asked Senator Chamberlain "have you not felt proper to let the public into your confidence to these things that you are telling now?"

"Senator, I confess I have hesitated and I still hesitate," replied the secretary. "I have here a statement from Field Marshall von Hindenburg in which he is quoted as saying in a German newspaper, in contemptuous fashion to us, that we have advertised our preparations for this war in an unworthy manner."

"Do you think for a moment, Secretary Baker," said the chairman, "that there has been any time within the past year that the German secret service has not been fully advised as to everything we have done?"

"Yes, senator, I know. If I may rely upon the confidential information which we get from confidential sources, the German government is still mystified as to the number of men we have in France, or have had there at any time."

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"Now, instead of having 50,000 or 100,000 men in France in 1917, we have many more than that in France and instead of having half a million men whom we could ship to France if we could find any way to do it in 1918 we will have more than one-half million men in France early in 1918, and we have available, if the transportation facilities are available to us, one and one-half million who in 1918 can be shipped to France."

"Why," asked Senator Chamberlain "have you not felt proper to let the public into your confidence to these things that you are telling now?"

"Senator, I confess I have hesitated and I still hesitate," replied the secretary. "I have here a statement from Field Marshall von Hindenburg in which he is quoted as saying in a German newspaper, in contemptuous fashion to us, that we have advertised our preparations for this war in an unworthy manner."

"Do you think for a moment, Secretary Baker," said the chairman, "that there has been any time within the past year that the German secret service has not been fully advised as to everything we have done?"

"Yes, senator, I know. If I may rely upon the confidential information which we get from confidential sources, the German government is still mystified as to the number of men we have in France, or have had there at any time."

Metropolitan, of which Colonel Roosevelt is a contributing editor, in which the hope was expressed that the United States would strain every effort to get from 50,000 to 100,000 men in